

Assessment could impact voter status

The Ocean Pines Elections Committee is reminding homeowners that paying assessments by the voting eligibility deadline, July 1, is a prerequisite to vote in this year's election.

The Ocean Pines Board, in April, extended the annual assessment deadline to August 1, citing concerns that homeowners are facing unique and unprecedented difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the later date means those waiting to pay could be rendered ineligible to vote. According to Ocean Pines bylaws, no member may cast a ballot if, 35 days prior to the voting deadline, the member has failed to pay the annual assessment charge.

The voting eligibility deadline is July 1 and therefore, to be an eligible voter, the assessment must be paid by that date.

For questions about voter eligibility or assessment payment status, contact the membership office at 410-641-7717 ext. 3031, or email rmeyer@oceanpines.org.

Elections Committee Chairman Steve Habeger said ballots for the 2020 Ocean Pines Board of Directors Election would be mailed the week of July 6, and must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5.

Ballots may be returned by mail to the Berlin Post Office, using the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope included in the election mailing to all eligible voters. Ineligible voters will receive notice of their voting status, as well as notice of the August annual meeting of membership.

Alternately, ballots may be returned in person to a ballot box provided by the Association. The ballot box location will be announced, shortly.

"Remember, your vote counts and, to make sure your vote counts, please make sure your ballot is received by the deadline of August 5," Habeger said.

For questions about the election, call the Ocean Pines Elections hotline at 410-208-3989 or email elections@oceanpines.org.

This year, three candidates are vying for two seats on the Ocean Pines Board, which is the governing body of the Association. The two candidates with the most votes will each earn a three-year term on the Board.

Running are incumbents Colette Horn and Doug Parks, and newcomer Stuart Lakernick.

To help inform voters, each candidate provided a biographical statement and answered questions from the Elections Committee. That information is

*please see **voting** page 15*



Collection - The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean City/Ocean Pines is collecting graduation gowns to be donated to local health care facilities for use as PPE. The graduation gowns are uniquely suited for this purpose because they have long sleeves and a zipper. Please drop off gowns at 98 Ocean Parkway, Ocean Pines in the plastic bin at the end of the driveway. Pictured is **Steve Cohen**, president-elect of the club.



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Board to consider short-term rental ban, stronger enforcement options

A discussion last Tuesday night about repeat violations at one Ocean Pines home turned into a broader debate about short-term rentals in the community.

It also served as a preview for the July 1 Board meeting, when Directors will consider banning rentals of less than one week.

The home in question, a rental property on 91 Abbyshire Road, received nearly 10 complaints in the last four years, according to Ocean Pines Police.

Homeowner Bill Fenn, who lives next door, said he's sent five or six emails to Board members about issues related to the home.

"I put into emails to the Directors my experiences, my feelings and some suggestions, and I'm here tonight to hopefully listen to what ... Ocean Pines may be able to do to resolve this," he said.

Association Vice President Steve

Tuttle said Board members received many emails about 91 Abbyshire.



91 Abbyshire Road

"It's a very, very serious problem," he said. "We've seen the trash piled out there ... I think all the Directors have been by there at least once, if not more."

As an example, Tuttle said last Sunday there were six cars parked in the driveway and a large truck parked in

*please see **abbyshire** on page 12*



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NAACP responds to racial flyers *Do not remain silent*

Editor:

As President of the Worcester County Branch of the NAACP, I have been contacted by many community members (both Black and White) asking what is the NAACP doing about the “racial flyers” that some Worcester residents found in their driveways.

*** What We Know –** Several residents in Ocean Pines, Berlin, West Ocean City and Stockton reported finding racist flyers from the Ku Klux Klan on their driveways last week. The Ocean Pines police investigated the incident. When a reporter called the North Carolina number, listed on the flyer, the phone was answered by a voicemail message from the Loyal White Knights (of the KKK).

*** What We Have Done –** I have contacted the Ocean Pines Police, the Worcester County Sheriff and the Worcester County State’s Attorney. All have expressed their concern for this incident. Police Chief David Massey, of

Ocean Pines PD has been quoted as saying, “The only crime is littering.” So, without a way to prove who littered our county with this hate, there is no legal action that can be taken.

*** Thoughts –** I have spent a great deal of time considering what should be done as a response to these flyers. Sometimes behaviors must be dealt with directly. Other times the ignorance speaks for itself and the less attention given the better. We do not know who distributed these flyers. If we did, they could be charged. The content is offensive and has no place in our society. Many believe that these flyers were brought into Worcester County and not distributed by individuals from our county. I pray that is the case! I believe that the vast majority of the residents of Worcester find this propaganda offensive. Ironically, the flyers were weighted down by cat litter, a product designed to absorb waste products. Cat litter was used to distribute a flyer that belongs nowhere but in the trash. Trash is offensive when it is anywhere, but in the trash can. Let’s remove these racists thoughts from our county and the world. Together let’s place them permanently where they belong, in the trash!

*** The racist flyer invites others to “join our struggle”.** Ironically, I continue saying the same thing to all residents of Worcester County. Join with the NAACP to make it clear that racism has no place in Worcester County (nor our nation or world). For information about joining the Worcester County Branch of the NAACP you can contact me at ivos4@aol.com.

Ivory P. Smith Sr.
President

Editor:

It is hard to believe we live in a community where recent KKK-related print materials were left in driveways of local residents of Berlin, Ocean Pines and West Ocean City.

This is an affront, not just to those who received these hate-filled, scare-mongering missives, but to all of us who live in this area and call it home.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the hatred being directed to our fellow citizens. We must stand united and stand up for the rights of all. We must speak out against injustice when we see it, hear it, encounter it, whether it is overt or subtle.

I encourage everyone who believes in respect, kindness, honor and integrity to reach out to our community police, sheriff departments and county

commissioners. Demand that they ensure action is taken to uncover who and what organizations have taken it upon themselves to sow seeds of hatred, fear, ignorance and upheaval into our lives and our neighbors’. Follow up with them.

Do not remain silent. As German Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemöller so movingly expressed it in 1946 after World War II:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Ann and Bob Augustine
Berlin



Letters sent to The Courier for publication consideration must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached to verify authenticity, if necessary. Letters are not corrected for spelling or grammar and priority will be given to letters of 300 words or less. Letters must be received by Friday at 5 p.m. They can be e-mailed to:

thecourier@delmarvacourier.com

OPA Odds and Ends

By **Joe Reynolds**

Vote in Forum Poll

The OceanPinesForum.com OPA 2020 board election poll is now available on the forum home page. There are two vacancies to fill and three candidates currently running. They are Colette Horn and Doug Parks seeking re-election to another three-year term, and newcomer to the OPA political scene, Stuart Laker-nick. As with the actual ballot, you may choose one or two candidates.



Visit the forum home page at OceanPinesForum.com and cast your vote. over the last 15 years, the results of the forum poll have closely mirrored the actual election results.

Parks responds
Commentary

In a long rambling, somewhat incoherent letter-to-the-editor of *The Courier* newspaper, OPA president Doug Parks responded to my commentary regarding his mishandling of the application for a federal PPP loan through the Bank of Ocean City. Unfortunately, his thousands of words

please see reynolds on page 15

John Adams, a staunch supporter of American independence and a representative for Boston at the First Continental Congress, felt that, after America gained independence from Great Britain, July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate American Independence Day. July 2nd was when the vote for independence took place. July 4, 1776 was when the Declaration of Independence was officially signed. Thereafter, Adams would reportedly decline invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. In an interesting turn of events, July 4th would prove significant to Adams in another way. Both Adams and Thomas Jefferson, another key figure in American history, died on July 4, 1826, which marked the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Courier Almanac

At midnight on July 1, 1997, Hong Kong reverted back to Chinese rule in a ceremony attended by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles of Wales, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. A few thousand Hong Kongers protested the turnover, which was otherwise celebratory and peaceful.

Someday items

Famous, and not all that unfamiliar, last words: "I'm sure I'll be able to use this someday."

A garage full of "someday" items is what awaited me not long ago when I finally started a project that



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

had been pushed off too long. Of late, my garage has looked like what my boys' bedrooms looked like when they were teenagers. It was getting to the point that just opening the door triggered an avalanche of precariously perched cans, paint brushes and assorted other stuff from the work bench to the floor.

It's in my nature, and I don't believe I'm alone in this, that I habitually stuff, place, shove and/or jam into drawers and cabinets items that are in good working order, cans that are somewhat full and parts leftover from a household project. Why? Because even though they may be old, a little worn, or near empty, they still could be useful for some future project or need. It could happen. I want to be prepared. But a reality of life is this: I *want* to be prepared is different from I *will* be prepared. "Want" and "will" are words different in meaning and result. What will happen, what has happened for years, is that that thingamabob saved for a unique situation is forgotten and a new whatchamacallit is purchased. Which explains why my garage is a repository for "someday" items.

For instance, I found dozens and dozens of cellophane-packaged yellow and orange wire caps left over from the many fans and light fixtures I've installed in my home through the years. Six quarter-full or less cans of turpentine were found in six different cabinets, several hiding behind old telephone cords of various lengths tied with frayed twisty ties.

From behind several old dried-up gallon cans of paint I found three, not one, not two, but three large Zip-Lock bags containing dozens of switch and outlet covers. There are more covers in these bags than I have switches and outlets in my house.

Why? You know the reason. Come on. Stay with me. Because, there might be a situation when I may need an off-white colored twin switch cover or two or three or seven or eight. You chuckle. But when that situation arises, I'll be prepared. Would you?

Beneath the cluttered work bench, in a lower drawer that I haven't opened in years, are old ornately carved hand planers, hand drills, drill bits, mechanical screw drivers and some things I have no idea what they are. These belonged to my great-grandfather and grandfather each of whom were cabinet-makers in their days. The tools haven't been applied to their functions in decades. They rest silently, relics of a bygone era. I'll never use them. I'll never throw them out.

Deep in an upper cabinet I found three unopened, dust coated boxes of bicycle inner tubes, two to fit a 16-inch tire and one to fit a 24-inch tire. The bikes for which these parts were purchased haven't been around in ages. And that's not all.

In another cabinet were several boxes for items that have been long gone. One was the box for an old cell phone I had in the late 1990s. Still in the box were the packaging it was wrapped in as well as the User's Guide. Another box was for a handheld VHS radio I purchased for the boat. Two radios have been purchased since this box was placed in the cabinet for safekeeping.

And when it comes to tattered boxes and discolored jars of old nails and screws, I'm awash in them. Why? I wish I could explain but I can't. What's ironic is that these boxes and jars are sitting next to newer leftover boxes of new nails and screws purchased for whatever job I was working on at the time.

I've been doing my best to throw items away; coming to terms with the reality that saving more than one old bathroom towel rack is not necessary. The objective is to redefine the garage space so that I can actually use the work bench and be able to move around without climbing over, crawling under or squeezing through clutter.

We'll see.



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Free online parent education classes offered

The Worcester County Health Department announces free online parenting education classes designed to provide parents and guardians with resources and tools to enhance communication and help their children make healthy life choices for a brighter future. All classes are taught by a master trainer, are evidence based and have been found effective in helping parents handle their own stress and emotions while also understanding their children's growth and development.

Beginning July 6, Guiding Good Choices will be offered virtually with group discussions occurring on Mondays at 5pm. Classes are designed for parents/guardians of middle school students. Through participation in the

course, parents/guardians will increase their knowledge about drugs and alcohol, signs of use, and be able to arm their children with drug resistance skills. It will be an interactive class with great discussions on current events and the effects on kids.

Beginning July 9 Parenting Wisely will be offered virtually for parents/guardians of youth of all ages. Topics include communication, anger management, discipline, empowerment, behavior management, and many other topics. The group discussion will be on Thursdays at 3pm.

Beginning July 10, Nurturing Parenting classes will be offered online. This class is designed specifically for parents who have an open case in the

court system. The Nurturing Parenting Program is family-centered trauma-informed initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills. The group discussions will be held on Fridays at 2 p.m.

"During this time of social distancing we are continuing to provide parents and guardians with the tools and education needed to help raise healthy and successful children," said Mimi Dean, Director of Prevention Services for the Worcester County Health Department. "Using an online format to provide these classes makes these learning tools convenient and accessible."

Please call 443-735-5437 to register or 410-632-1100 ext. 1106.



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Short movies sought for film challenge

The Ocean City Film Festival in collaboration with the Art League of Ocean City is presenting a third challenge to filmmakers and aspiring filmmakers across Delmarva and beyond: The Ocean City Film Challenge.

The 3rd Annual Ocean City Film

Challenge is open to any artist who wishes to make a short film that takes place in Ocean City and tells a story about the resort, preferably suited for viewing by all ages. The film must be made July 1-31, 2020, and filmmakers must register for the challenge by July 10

at <https://forms.gle/BUp-DRHXYXbHnN7Ca6>.

Final cuts are due on July 31, and should be uploaded to Ocean-city-filmfest@gmail.com.

Accepted entries will be screened on Tuesday, August 4 at 8 p.m. as part of the Ocean City Drive-In Movie Series in the parking lot of the Ocean City Convention Center. Admission is free, and all attendees view movies from their cars. Chairs are not permitted. Entries will also be screened at the 5th annual Ocean City Film Festival in March 2021.

“Ocean City is a beautiful landscape, and there’s so much that artists can take advantage of right here in town,” said Film Festival Director William Strang-Moya. “In our 2020 Film Challenge, we are faced with the unique challenges of social distancing in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. So what is a filmmaker to do? There are many ways to tell a story through motion picture, and this year we strive to explore these boundaries. We are offering filmmakers monetary assistance with the production of their films and are also allowing the use of archival footage.”

The Ocean City Film Festival is offering financial support to Film Challenge participants this season to enable them to overcome the stresses of adverse conditions. Worcester County and Worcester County-adjacent filmmakers will be eligible for \$100 stipends upon re-

view of their registration forms.

First prize includes all-access passes for the 2021 Film Festival complete with hotel package and \$150 cash prize. Second prize receives \$100 cash prize and passes. Third prize receives \$50 cash prize and passes.

More information and updates on the Festival and the Film Challenge are available online at www.ocmdfilmfestival.com/ocean-city-film-challenge.html. Contact Strang-Moya at Ocean-city-filmfest@gmail.com with questions.

County offices to close for holiday

Worcester County Government (WCG) offices, including Recreation and Parks, will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

The Central Landfill and Homeowner Convenience Centers (HOCCs) will be closed Saturday, July 4. The HOCCs will resume standard hours of operation on Sunday July 5.

The Shore Spirits Retail Liquor Store in Pocomoke will be open during standard hours of operation.

All other WCG offices, including the Central Landfill, will resume standard hours of operation on Monday, July 6.

WCG staff wish one and all a safe and happy holiday.

For more information on WCG hours of operation, contact Public Information Officer Kim Moses at (410) 632-1194.

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Art League announces exhibits opening

The Art League of Ocean City presents the 20th Annual Beverly Bassford Memorial Juried Show online and in the galleries at the Ocean City Center for the Arts in July. Juror Christy Cox, gallery coordinator for Salisbury University, selected Leo Kahl of Fallston, Md. and Ocean View, De. as the Best in Show winner 2020.

The traditional First Friday art opening and happy hour again moves online for July with live streaming of the new exhibits on Facebook Live beginning at 5 p.m. on July 3. Selected works will also be available to view on the Art Leagues website - ArtLeague-OfOceanCity.org

The Beverly Bassford Juried Show is an annual memorial event named for a former Art League of Ocean City board member who was passionate about the need for a new art facility, a passion realized in the Ocean City Center for the Arts. After her death in 1999, Bassford's family established a prize in her name that grew into the annual memorial show, featuring fine

art by local and regional artists and awards still sponsored by Bassford's family.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the show and to honor the legacy of Beverly Bassford, the Arts Center will exhibit the show building-wide in both the Thaler Gallery and Galleria to view in person. "We want to remind everyone that our doors are open for regular hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and that we are practicing CDC guidelines," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "The Arts Center on 94th St bayside is spacious indoors with two floors and an outdoor waterfront area where folks gather to watch the sunsets. It's a wonderful and safe place to visit in person."

Bassford's family has recorded a video about her life and art and dedication to the Art League. The video will be included in the virtual First Friday opening and posted later for viewing.

please see exhibit page 14

Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Mars round trip

Following the thrill of May's launch of astronauts to the International Space Station, NASA's next major project is the "Mars Sample Return" mission. This ambitious new program will be the first round trip to another planet, collecting and bringing back rock samples from Mars. The operation's first step is just weeks away, with a July 20 launch planned for the "Perseverance" rover.

A complex series of steps for the mission will include: three launches from earth, two surface rovers, a Mars orbiter, an experimental helicopter, and a rocket launch from the Martian surface. Ultimately the project is scheduled to end in 2031 when samples are returned to Earth.

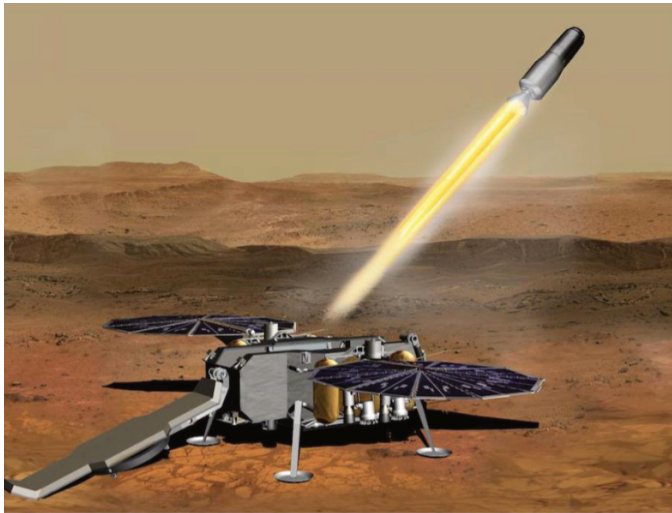
After the July launch, the mission's timeline projects a February 2021 Mars landing by the Perseverance rover. This rover is equipped to collect Martian rocks and soil samples, storing them in 43 sealed tubes, designed to protect against intrusion of any Earthly contaminants.

A small experimental helicopter named "Ingenuity" will be carried aboard Perseverance, and deployed after the landing. As the first of its kind, this small 4 lb. helicopter faces the challenge of operating in the thin Martian atmosphere, which is only one percent that of Earth's. The aircraft will be exploring the surface and help in guiding the Perseverance rover to suitable and interesting terrain for sample collection.

After about five years of data collection and rock sampling, the next phase occurs in 2026 with two launches. The first launch takes off from Cape Canaveral and includes the

Sample Retriever Lander, the European-built "fetch" rover, and the Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV). Later in 2026, the Earth Return Orbiter will be launched from French Guiana, in South America.

After the Sample Retriever Lander has touched down safely on the red planet, the "fetch rover" will be dispatched to obtain the samples from Perseverance and load them aboard the Mars Ascent Vehicle. The fetch



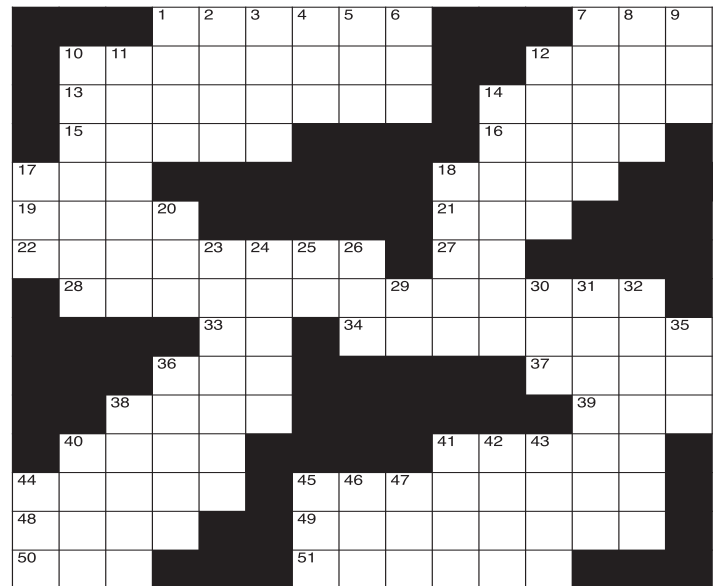
Mars Ascent Vehicle depicted blasting off from Martian surface, carrying samples

rover reflects the U.S. collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA).

Another innovative and exciting aspect of the mission is the Mars Ascent Vehicle or MAV, a rocket and launch pad system designed to blast off from the planet surface carrying the sample tubes upwards into orbit. Considering that Martian gravity is only 38 percent that of Earth, this rocket can be relatively small. NASA engineers have decided that a "solid-fuel" design is most suitable and have contracted with Northrop Grumman to build the rocket. The rocket will be inactive for several years, as it will be launched from Earth in 2026 and will not be put into use on Mars until about 2029.

The last stage of the journey begins

please see mars on page 11

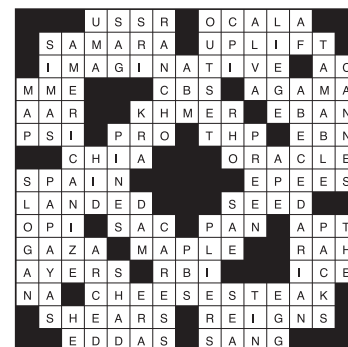


CLUES ACROSS

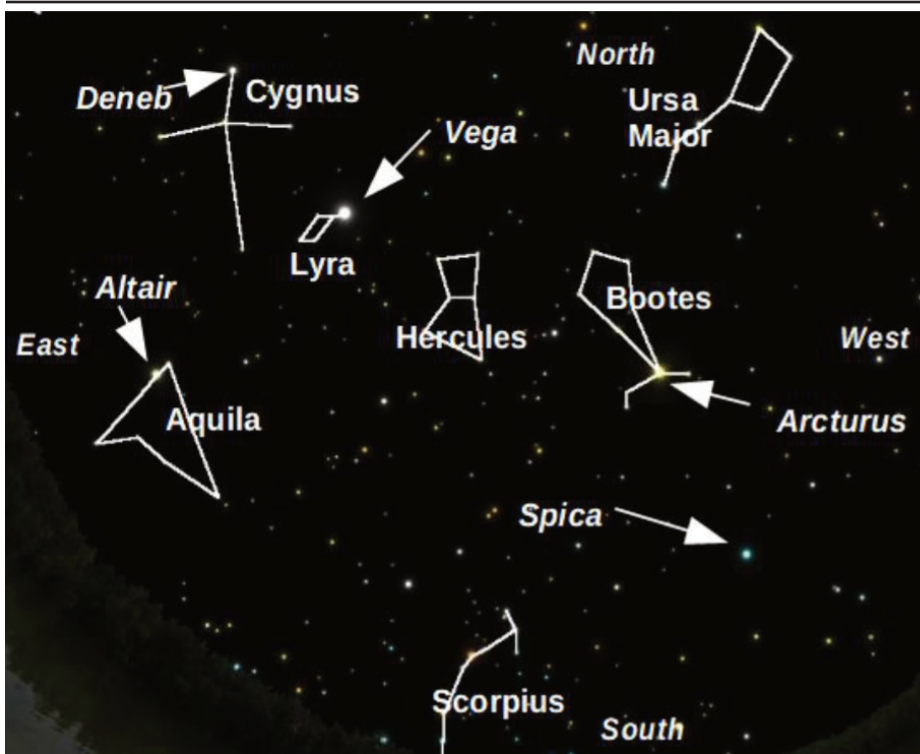
- 1. African nation
- 7. ___ fi (slang)
- 10. Not arranged according to size
- 12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game
- 13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors
- 14. Panama has one
- 15. Taking legal action
- 16. Top of the body
- 17. Part of (abbr.)
- 18. Soul and calypso song
- 19. Murres
- 21. Irish river
- 22. Accepts as true
- 27. The Bay State
- 28. 1950s Hollywood icon
- 33. Blood type
- 34. In a way, became lost
- 36. Large primate
- 37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast
- 38. Mama ___, folk singer
- 39. Visual metaphor (computers)
- 40. Trim by cutting
- 41. Small group of people
- 44. Pulitzer-winning scientist
- 45. Unique S. American mammal
- 48. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 49. One who works for you
- 50. Snakelike fish
- 51. Consumers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cylindrical sacs
- 2. Extinct North Germanic language
- 3. Late rocker Allman
- 4. Word element meaning ear
- 5. Amino acid (abbr.)
- 6. Promotions
- 7. Actress Lathan
- 8. Clothed
- 9. Unwell
- 10. Loosen
- 11. Cephalopod mollusks
- 12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull
- 14. Musical composition
- 17. Irish bar
- 18. Greek island
- 20. Afflict
- 23. Goes by
- 24. Ambience
- 25. Video game manufacturer
- 26. Surplus Marketing Administration
- 29. Football position
- 30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)
- 31. Furniture with open shelves
- 32. Clouds of gas in outer space
- 35. Indian midwife
- 36. Packers' signal caller
- 38. Secret political clique
- 40. Cry weakly
- 41. Gomer ___, marine
- 42. Academic Bill of Rights
- 43. Negatives
- 44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
- 45. Soul singer ___ Lo
- 46. Doctors' group
- 47. Parts per thousand (abbr.)



Answers for June 24



mars
from page 10

when the MAV blasts off from the Martian surface and performs an orbital rendezvous with the Earth Return Orbiter. After the Martian samples are transferred to this craft, they can then begin the return journey to Earth, which is scheduled to end with a landing in a desert in Utah in 2031.

A Sample Receiving Facility will be constructed to analyze the Mars rocks and soil. This laboratory must ensure that Earth microbes do not contaminate the samples, neither should the samples contents escape into the Earth environment.

July stargazers can begin their evening at about 9:45 p.m., when the full stellar vista comes into view. Just above the southern horizon the constellation Scorpius the Scorpion appears. High overhead, one can see the classic Cygnus the Swan, also known as the Northern Cross. Many stargazers are aware of the "Summer Triangle" featuring three prominent stars Vega, Deneb and Altair. Deneb appears in Cygnus, while Vega and Altair are located in Lyra and Aquila, respectively. Although Deneb and Vega are in the same quadrant, Altair is well-separated, to the south.

Late evening stargazers, out after 12:15 a.m., are in for a treat. At this time, the planets Saturn and Jupiter make their first appearance of 2020; as they hover above the south-eastern horizon. The two are

located in the same region of the sky just to the east of Sagittarius and they are separated by about 6 degrees. In the month of August, the two planets will be visible at an earlier, more convenient hour.

Wishing clear skies and good luck to all stargazers.

Health Department hosts scavenger hunt and walk event

The Worcester County Health Department is excited to invite you to Move Your Way and join us for a self-directed Just Walk scavenger hunt on July 25. Residents can get in their steps from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at one of the following park locations:

John Walter Smith Park-Snow Hill, Maryland
Cypress Park-Pocomoke, Maryland
Stephen Decatur Park-Berlin, Maryland

Residents are encouraged to walk through the park looking for Just Walk Worcester Health Tip Messages. Those who submit the number of messages found will be entered into a free raffle drawing for a chance to win a free prize. Submissions should be emailed to crystal.bell1@maryland.gov. This is a great event for anyone and a way to increase physical activity by walking and participating in a scavenger hunt. All who register and submit a walk photo from one of the park locations will receive a free t-shirt.

please see **event** on page 12

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 2	Low	12:01 AM
2	High	6:02 AM
2	Low	11:56 AM
2	High	6:38 PM
F 3	Low	1:00 AM
3	High	6:56 AM
3	Low	12:49 PM
3	High	7:30 PM
Sa 4	Low	1:53 AM
4	High	7:48 AM
4	Low	1:40 PM
4	High	8:21 PM
Su 5	Low	2:42 AM
5	High	8:39 AM
5	Low	2:29 PM
5	High	9:10 PM
M 6	Low	3:28 AM
6	High	9:28 AM
6	Low	3:16 PM
6	High	9:57 PM
Tu 7	Low	4:13 AM
7	High	10:15 AM
7	Low	4:03 PM
7	High	10:42 PM
W 8	Low	4:57 AM
8	High	11:01 AM
8	Low	4:50 PM
8	High	11:26 PM

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at your business
**can reduce your
carbon footprint.**

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abbyshire

from page 3

the roadside.

“And we’ve certainly heard from various residents with concerns about the noise and the disruptions in the middle of the night,” he said. “I wanted us to at least have a conversation and see what, if anything, we could do as an Association.”

Tuttle said he spoke with Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino about the matter, and that Bertino reached out to county Zoning Administrator Jennifer Keener.

“They have been able to contact the owner of the property, and then my understanding is that the owner is starting the process to seek a [rental] license for the property,” he said.

The county passed new legislation related to short-term rentals last August, with Bill 19-4 going into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. The bill requires any person or firm offering rentals to first obtain a license from the county.

Worcester County defines short-term rentals as those lasting less than 28 days.

Tuttle said he told Bertino the situation on Abbyshire was unacceptable, and the Commissioner replied that he would like to “make an example out of” the situation.

“The people actually renting the building do not have a license and the disturbances are unacceptable, and they’ve been advertising this property without a license,” Tuttle said. “He [Bertino] picked up on that and he has asked Jennifer to [issue] a citation against the property.

“Whether that will bring enough pressure on them to stop what they’re doing, I don’t know,” he continued. “It’s really the county regs that, I think, control this, but ... from what I can see they’re not ready to enforce anything ... in any significant way.”

Association President Doug Parks said the county legislation defines things like the amount of occupants permitted per square foot, in a rental, but lacks enforcement if the rules are not met.

“What’s missing from the legislation that they passed is, what can we do to enforce this and what, if any, are the penalties,” Parks said. “Right now, we can’t depend on the county for any immediate action, but certainly we want to work with them for the long-term action,” he added.

Parks said he also registered a complaint with airbnb, where the property is advertised.

“The activities at that house do not favorably represent the organization ... and they definitely need to be looking into it,” he said.

With the county and airbnb “on notice,” Parks said it was now up to Ocean Pines to see what could be done.

“My personal concern is, what can we do immediately to eliminate or, at the very least, minimize this problem,” he said.

Director Camilla Rogers said she recently drove by the property and saw, among other things, “beds [for sleeping] in the garage.”

“It is just a horrible, horrible atrocity,” she said.

Rogers asked why Ocean Pines, as a homeowner’s association, would have to go to the county for enforcement.

“With the covenants of private enjoyment, which we have in our documents, why is it that we can’t evict these people?” she said.

Parks said Ocean Pines’ Declarations of Restrictions do not have a component for enforcement, including either eviction or issuing fines.

He said the Board discussed “fining in general” about a year ago, and the conversation appeared to be again headed in that direction — potentially amending the Declarations through a community referendum.

Parks cited Director Frank Daly’s motion slated for the July 1 Board meeting, which would “direct legal counsel to develop the wording necessary to amend the Declarations of Restrictions in all sections to ban rentals of less than one week and once established to place that question before all homeowners in a Referendum vote.”

“Certainly, the motion that’s out on the floor that Frank proposed ... is a good” place to start, Parks said.

According to Daly, the Association currently does not have authority to levy fines in any section established prior to 1995.

Daly said the property on Abbyshire is in one such section. Each “section” of Ocean Pines is governed by a separate Declaration of Restrictions, which cannot be changed without a referendum.

He said the current process of enforcing the Declarations is arduous — requiring several steps in a lengthy legal process. Recently, Daly said the

Association moved to penalize a homeowner for “parking junked cars in their driveway.”

“We started down a process of enforcing our Declarations of Restrictions,” Daly said, including filing a complaint and giving the homeowner 30 days to respond. “If they fight that in any way ... it’ll be well past October before we get a court date to bear our grievance against that property.”

In a case like the one on Abbyshire, Daly said addressing a complaint as simple as a noise ordinance violation could take four months.

“[That] just doesn’t work,” he said.

Daly said there are two choices to resolve the problem, the first of which is to seek a referendum vote to impose fines.

“When we tried that last year, there was a lot of pushback — a whole lot,” Daly said. “It’s ... certainly questionable that, over the array of all of our homeowners, they would do that.”

The second option, he said, was to ask the county for new or amended short-term rental legislation.

“We are the largest unincorporated community in the county. Berlin, Snow Hill, Pocomoke [and] Ocean City handles this [enforcing short-term rental restrictions] with ordinances that they pass through their town council — we can’t do that,” Daly said. “The Commissioners made it pretty clear that they would be willing to work with us, with text amendment, but ... the ball is in our ballpark to ask them.”

Daly went on to say the current short-term rental law “doesn’t specify any penalties.”

He said he is considering a change to his July 1 motion to ask for “two disjointed questions” — should Ocean Pines ban short-term rentals, and/or should the Board approach the county for text amendments to further regulate short-term rentals in Ocean Pines.

Specifically, Daly said he would like either Ocean Pines or the county to have the authority to impose significant fines, and to immediately evict renters who violate occupancy limits.

“If we don’t get it, we can go the more expensive route [to change the Declarations], and I think it’s going to be a tough sell of going through all 22 sections and changing the DRs,” Daly said.

“The residents on Abbyshire have

a real serious problem and nobody has the right piece of law on their hands to correct it,” he added.

Daly later said the Board also needs to determine how large the issue of derelict short-term rentals is, in Ocean Pines.

Tuttle called for a workgroup, to potentially include Board members, Abbyshire residents and County Commissioners Bertino and Jim Bunting, to “find out what we can do, legally, to stop them from renting this property [on Abbyshire] right now.”

He said current county regulations do classify short-term rentals in violation as a civil infraction.

“To me, that says there’s something that can be brought to bear, in this situation, because they do not have a license,” Tuttle said.

Parks, Rogers and Daly each echoed the call for a workgroup with county officials.

“If I were on Abbyshire I’d say, ‘OK great, you’re going to do something in six months — what the hell are you going to do for me today?’” Daly said. “That’s what we have to find out.”

He underscored the need for action, sooner rather than later.

“Looking at the current piece of county legislation — they were working on that long before last season, and here we are this season and we have a piece of legislation that appears to be highly ineffective,” Daly said. “If we don’t get going on it right now, then we won’t have something in place enforceable, I’m afraid, by next year. And that would be a tragedy.”

event

from page 11

“Walking continues to be one of the easiest forms of physical activity and it’s free to everyone. There are many reasons to walk. There are also various health benefits that can be gained from simply just walking,” said Crystal Bell, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Supervisor.

Social Distancing and CDC safety guidelines should be followed by all participants.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/move-your-way-just-walk-savenger-hunt-tickets-110974706334> or visit our website worchesterhealth.org. For more information please call 410-632-1100, extension 1108.

The Declaration of Independence

Publisher's Note: *As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, it may be good to read the words that started it all.*

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and

usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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¡ Se Habla Español!

exhibit
from page 9

A new virtual exhibition also opens on First Friday in collaboration with the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore featuring contemporary ceramic artists from across the region. Marie Cavallaro and Ernest Satchel are exhibit jurors.

Richard Segars displays his paintings in Studio E and during July. Originally from Texas where he received a Master of Architecture degree, he spent 22 years as a historical architect with the National Park Service. Segars currently lives and paints in Berlin, and his paintings of Assateague Island National Seashore are featured in this show.

The in-person and online Spotlight Gallery features photographic prints by L. Patrice Farina of Lewes, DE. The artist creatively arranges live flowers and other props into whimsical scenes, and then photo-

graphs them for display.

Dot Truitt in the Artisan Showcase, a member of the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore, loved coloring books and Esther Williams bathing caps as a child, and these plus Cirque du Soleil have influenced her work. Truitt uses high-fire stoneware clay and low-fire glazes to make objects for the home, including fan pulls, finials for lamp shades, bottle stoppers, and bells shaped like animals.

RWWC to host fashion show

The Republican Women of Worcester County will host their 12th Annual Patriot Day Fashion Show Luncheon on Thursday, September 24 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. Fashions are presented by Bruder Hill of Berlin, MD.

The cost of the luncheon is \$35 per person. For more information and/or to make reservations, please contact Jean Delcher at jdelcher@comcast.net or at 410-641-8927 or 410-746-1612.

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Entry Fee \$45 each angler. (2 or more in a group are \$40 each and you must register together)

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS TOURNAMENT BY

FRIDAY, July 31, 2020 AT 12 NOON

**Return below registration with your fee or enter at oceanpineschamber.org
Please include name of each angler**

reynolds
from page 4

failed to even address the primary issue addressed in my commentary — his failure to have the Board of Directors pass a motion to approve the application.

Fact: Doug Parks, on April 16, 2020, sent a letter to the Bank of Ocean City stating, "The Board of Directors of the Ocean Pines Association has authorized the General Manager to apply for funding associated with the Payroll Protection Program. As President of the Ocean Pines Associa-

tion I will be the signatory authority on the paperwork required to process the application."

Fact: As of April 16, 2020, the Board of Directors never voted to authorize the General Manager to apply for funding associated with the Payroll Protection Program.

The reality is that Parks misled the bank, and apparently then signed a contract that placed over \$1 million in loan proceeds into OPA's bank account during the week of April 19, 2020, as announced in an OPA news release of April 28, 2020. All this hap-

pened without required board approval via an approved motion. Borrowing over \$1 million is no trivial matter.

At the time of the OPA news release, with the \$1+ million already in the bank, the board had still not approved borrowing the money or applying for the loan. That did not happen until well after-the-fact in mid-May. Parks and the entire board should be ashamed and embarrassed for allowing such a debacle to take place

Board donates \$20,000+ to Seacrets
Commentary

The Board of Directors will likely be upset at the above headline. However, as a practical matter that is exactly what the board voted to do in reducing the amount of rent Seacrets pays OPA for use of our parking facilities in Ocean City. With OPA needing to borrow \$1.4 million to continue operations, some homeowners in financial distress due to the pandemic, OPA Treasurer Larry Perrone suggesting OPA's operational loss could amount to \$1.5 million or more this year, and board member Colette Horn suggesting an assessment increase next year to cover it, the board decided to give what might well be one of the wealthiest operation in all of Ocean City a rent reduction.

As an aside, Parks, as in the case of the PPP loan, unilaterally signed the current lease with Seacrets on May 1, 2019 without a board vote to approve the lease. Moreover, when the board finally voted to approve Parks' unilateral action, it did so via an email vote on October 2, 2019, with Director Janasek voting No. Such action outside a meeting required a unanimous vote to take any action. The board continues to ignore OPA bylaws, and more importantly, Maryland corporate law.

voting
from page 1

available www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/news_content?announcementId=178&backURL=/web/pages/blogs, and will also be included in the election mailing.

The three candidates also recently participated in an online forum moderated by the Elections Committee, which is viewable on the Ocean Pines YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/sdWZUVafLEY>.

Key upcoming election dates are as follows:

- Voter eligibility deadline: July 1
- Ballots mailed to eligible voters: Week of July 6
- Ballot receipt deadline: Aug. 5
- Ballots counted and vote totals announced: Aug. 7
- Annual meeting: Aug. 8 at 9 a.m., at a location to be determined

Keep up with future election announcements and other Association news at www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/opa-news.



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